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FUSION JOIN US SOCCER DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY WITH KEITH COSTIGAN AS BOYS U-12 COACH



U.S. SOCCER
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[Keith Costigan Joins As DA Head Coach](#)

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Fusion Join US Soccer Development Academy with Keith Costigan as Boys U-12 Coach

The Ventura County Fusion has joined the top echelon of United States youth soccer, joining the US Soccer Development Academy (DA) with two U-12 teams for the upcoming 2018-19 season. Veteran coach Keith Costigan, who formerly scouted the Development Academy for US Soccer, will lead the teams, which will be comprised of boys born in 2007 and 2008.

“Having scouted the DA for US Soccer I have a good understanding of the level and standards needed to be competitive in it,” said Costigan. “Working with a club that has an incredible structure like the Fusion will allow me to be part of a great learning environment for all the young players involved.”

As the only Boys Development Academy club in Ventura County, the Fusion will represent the best youth talent in the Ventura County area and compete with other Development Academy teams from LAFC, LA Galaxy and other Major League Soccer clubs

The DA season runs from September through June, and culminates with playoffs for older divisions in mid-July. Fusion take the field for their first game on September 2. Costigan has been leading training for the last month and the roster is expected to be announced soon.

U.S. Soccer created the Development Academy in 2007 to help develop elite players for national team duty and to lift the level of training available to US youth players as a whole. The Academy bases its philosophy on increased training, less total games, and more meaningful games using international rules of competition. Development Academy clubs are required to train a minimum of three days per week for ages U-14 and below, during the Academy season. The Academy sets the standard for elite environments for youth soccer clubs nationwide and players from Development Academy clubs form the core of many of the US Men's national teams. Recently, 21 players with DA ties were called up to the U.S. Under-17 Men's National Team for an international training camp featuring four games in San Jose, Costa Rica from Aug. 2-13.

Costigan comes with an impressive soccer pedigree, which includes level A coaching licenses from both the Union of European Football Association (UEFA) and the United States Soccer Federation (USSF). He joins the Fusion after several years as a US Soccer regional scout, evaluating youth players in the California Region for potential national team consideration. He has been an assistant coach for the men's soccer programs at Cal State Bakersfield and UC Irvine and a head coach for the extremely successful Chivas USA Development Academy program. Since 2005 he has also been an on-air analyst for Fox Soccer Channel.

"The entire club is delighted to have Keith join us and lead the DA program," said Fusion President Ranbir Shergill. "He brings a wealth of knowledge and coaching experience at a variety of levels. His passion for developing players, his systematic approach to teaching the game, and his tireless work ethic will benefit our DA players greatly. In a short period of time, Keith has been working with junior players at the club and has put those players in an environment that they have embraced."

For information on upcoming training sessions and the Fusion DA program, visit www.vcfusion.com or email amo@vcfusion.com.

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